

is named for the 1,200 student high school that it abuts adds to the severity of the problem.

A uniform truck weight limit of 100,000 pounds on Maine's interstate highways would reduce the highway miles and travel times necessary to transport freight through Maine, resulting in economic and environmental benefits. Moreover, Maine's extensive network and local roads will be better preserved without the wear and tear of heavy truck traffic. Most important, however, a uniform truck weight limit will keep trucks on the interstate where they belong, rather than on roads and highways that pass through Maine's cities, towns, and neighborhoods.

The legislation that Senator SNOWE and I are introducing addresses the safety issues we face in Maine because of the disparities in truck weight limits. The legislation directs the Secretary of Transportation to establish a commercial truck safety pilot program in Maine. Under the pilot program, the truck weight limit on all Maine highways that are part of the Interstate Highway System would be set at 100,000 pounds for 3 years. During the waiver period, the Secretary would study the impact of the pilot program on safety, and would receive the input of a panel that would include State officials, safety organizations, municipalities, and the commercial trucking industry. The waiver would become permanent if the panel determined that motorists were safer as a result of a uniform truck weight limit on Maine's Interstate Highway System.

Maine's citizens and motorists are needlessly at risk because too many heavy trucks are forced off the interstate and on to local roads. The legislation Senator SNOWE and I are introducing is a commonsense approach to a significant safety problem in my State. I hope my colleagues will support passage of this important legislation.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 71—EXPRESSING THE SUPPORT FOR THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. GREGG, Mr. HATCH, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BROWNBAC, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. BURNS, Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. COLEMAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DEWINE, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mr. GRAHAM of South Carolina, Mr. HAGEL, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. KYL, Mr. LOTT, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. NICKLES, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. SMITH, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. SUNUNU, Mr. TALENT, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. WARNER, Mr. SESSIONS, and Ms. LANDRIEU) submitted the following resolution; which was ordered held at the desk

S. RES. 71

Whereas a 3-judge panel of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals has ruled in *Newdow v. United States Congress* that the words "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance violate the Establishment Clause when recited voluntarily by students in public schools;

Whereas the Ninth Circuit has voted not to have the full court, en banc, reconsider the decision of the panel in *Newdow*;

Whereas this country was founded on religious freedom by the Founding Fathers, many of whom were deeply religious;

Whereas the First Amendment to the Constitution embodies principles intended to guarantee freedom of religion both through the free exercise thereof and by prohibiting the Government establishing a religion;

Whereas the Pledge of Allegiance was written by Francis Bellamy, a Baptist minister, and first published in the September 8, 1892, issue of the *Youth's Companion*;

Whereas Congress, in 1954, added the words "under God" to the Pledge of Allegiance;

Whereas the Pledge of Allegiance has for almost 50 years included references to the United States flag, the country, to our country having been established as a union "under God" and to this country being dedicated to securing "liberty and justice for all";

Whereas Congress in 1954 believed it was acting constitutionally when it revised the Pledge of Allegiance;

Whereas the 107th Congress overwhelmingly passed a resolution disapproving of the panel decision of the Ninth Circuit in *Newdow*, and overwhelmingly passed legislation recodifying Federal law that establishes the Pledge of Allegiance in order to demonstrate Congress's opinion that voluntarily reciting the Pledge in public schools is constitutional;

Whereas the Senate believes that the Pledge of Allegiance, as revised in 1954 and as recodified in 2002, is a fully constitutional expression of patriotism;

Whereas the National Motto, patriotic songs, United States legal tender, and engravings on Federal buildings also refer to "God"; and

Whereas in accordance with decisions of the United States Supreme Court, public school students are already protected from being compelled to recite the Pledge of Allegiance: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) strongly disapproves of a decision by a panel of the Ninth Circuit in *Newdow*, and the decision of the full court not to reconsider this case en banc; and

(2) authorizes and instructs the Senate Legal Counsel again to seek to intervene in the case to defend the constitutionality of the words "under God" in the Pledge, and, if unable to intervene, to file an amicus curiae brief in support of the continuing constitutionality of the words "under God" in the Pledge.

SENATE RESOLUTION 72—ELECTING WILLIAM H. PICKLE OF COLORADO AS THE SERGEANT AT ARMS AND DOORKEEPER OF THE SENATE

Mr. FRIST submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 72

Resolved, That William H. Pickle of Colorado be, and he is hereby, elected Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate effective March 17, 2003.

SENATE RESOLUTION 73—REMEMBERING AND HONORING THE HEROIC LIVES OF ASTRONAUTS AIR FORCE LIEUTENANT COLONEL MICHAEL ANDERSON AND NAVY COMMANDER WILLIAM "WILLIE" MCCOOL

Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. REID, and Mr. BROWNBAC) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 73

Whereas mankind lost 7 heroes with the tragic explosion of the Space Shuttle Columbia on February 1, 2003;

Whereas the families and friends of the 7 astronauts, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the entire Nation, and people around the world who followed the historic mission will deeply miss the 7 crew members of the Space Shuttle Columbia;

Whereas the astronauts made an important contribution as models of bravery, courage, and excellence for men, women, and children around the world;

Whereas 2 of these heroes, Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Michael Anderson and Navy Commander William "Willie" McCool, are particularly close to the hearts of residents of the State of Washington;

Whereas Lieutenant Colonel Anderson was a beloved son of the Spokane community since moving there at the age of 11, and a cherished hero for men, women, and children in Washington;

Whereas Lieutenant Colonel Anderson was a hero, long before accepting the challenge of the Columbia mission, for leading a life characterized by courage, achievement against many odds, and sacrifice for this country;

Whereas the story of Lieutenant Colonel Anderson is even more remarkable in light of the barriers to success that young African-Americans in this country have had to overcome;

Whereas this remarkable story has long been shared at the childhood church of Lieutenant Colonel Anderson and throughout the Spokane African-American community, and has inspired a generation of children;

Whereas throughout his early education in Spokane area public schools, Lieutenant Colonel Anderson focused on voyaging to space as an astronaut and became an exceptional science student;

Whereas since becoming an astronaut in 1994, Lieutenant Colonel Anderson took to heart the special responsibility of serving as a role model for children around the country and back home;

Whereas after his 1998 flight on the Space Shuttle Endeavor to the Mir Space Station, Lieutenant Colonel Anderson returned to Cheney High School in Spokane and told a crowd of enthralled students that dreams such as his of becoming an astronaut can be achieved with hard work and clear goals;

Whereas Lieutenant Colonel Anderson embodied excellence and provided a triumphant example of accomplishment for Americans of all colors, races, and backgrounds;

Whereas the Washington family lost another dear friend in Commander McCool, who made Anacortes, Washington his home during 2 periods of service at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island;

Whereas community members remember Commander McCool for his kindness, professionalism, and love of his children;

Whereas Commander McCool continued to pay visits to the Anacortes community and was a cherished member of the community; and

Whereas Lieutenant Colonel Anderson and Navy Commander McCool will be missed but never forgotten: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate remembers and honors the heroic lives of astronauts Lieutenant Colonel Michael Anderson and Commander William McCool.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED & PROPOSED

SA 249. Ms. MURKOWSKI proposed an amendment to the bill S. Res. 71, expressing the support for the Pledge of Allegiance.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 249. Ms. MURKOWSKI proposed an amendment to the bill S. Res. 71, expressing the support for the Pledge of Allegiance; as follows:

On page 3, line 7 of the resolution strike "again" and insert "either"

On page 3, line 9 of the resolution strike "and, if unable to intervene," and insert "or"

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry be authorized to conduct a hearing during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 4, 2003. The purpose of this hearing will be to review the Federal Government's initiatives regarding the school lunch and school breakfast programs.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 4, 2003, at 9:30 a.m., in closed session to receive a classified briefing on current operations.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 4, 2003, at 10 a.m. to conduct a hearing on "The Administration's Proposed Fiscal Year 2004 Budget for the Department of Housing and Urban Development."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet on March 4, 2003, at 10 a.m. on the nomination of Dr. Charles McQueary to be Under Secretary for Science and Technology, Department of Homeland Security; Jeffrey Shane to be Under Sec-

retary of Transportation for Policy, Department of Transportation; Emil Frankel to be Assistant Secretary of Transportation, Department of Transportation; and Robert Sturgell, Deputy Administrator, Federal Aviation Administration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on Tuesday, March 4 at 10 a.m. to receive testimony on the financial condition of the electricity market.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 4, 2003 at 9:30 a.m. to hold a hearing on the Millennium Challenge Account: A New Way to Aid.

Witnesses

Panel 1: The Honorable Alan Larson, Under Secretary of State of Economic, Business & Agricultural Affairs, Department of State, Washington, DC;

The Honorable John Taylor, Under Secretary for International Affairs, Department of the Treasury, Washington, DC;

The Honorable Andrew S. Natsios, Administrator, Agency for International Development, Washington, DC.

Panel 2: Dr. Steven Radelet, Senior Fellow, Center for Global Development, Washington, DC;

Ms. Mary E. McClymont, President and CEO, Interaction, Washington, DC; Ms. Susan Berresford, President, Ford Foundation, Washington, DC.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. Allen. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet to conduct a hearing on "The War Against Terrorism: Working Together to Protect America" on Tuesday, March 4, 2003, at 9:30 a.m. in Dirksen Room 106.

Tentative Witness List

The Honorable John D. Ashcroft, Attorney General of the United States, Department of Justice, Washington, DC;

The Honorable Thomas J. Ridge, Secretary, Office of Homeland Security, Washington, DC;

The Honorable Robert S. Mueller, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice, Washington, DC.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Com-

mittee on Veterans' Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 4, 2003, for a hearing to consider the nomination of: Mr. Bruce E. Kasold to be a Judge, U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans' Claims; and Brigadier General John W. Nicholson, USA (ret.), to be Under Secretary Memorial Affairs, Department of Veterans Affairs.

The hearing will take place in room 418 of the Russell Senate Office Building at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 4, 2003 at 2:30 p.m. to hold a closed hearing.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, HISTORIC PRESERVATION, AND RECREATION

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on National Parks, Historic Preservation and Recreation, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on Tuesday, March 4 at 2:30 p.m. to receive testimony on S. 164, a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of sites associated with the life of César Estrada Chávez and the Farm Labor Movement; S. 328 a bill to designate Catoctin Mountain Park in the State of Maryland as the "Catoctin Mountain National Recreation Area," and for other purposes; S. 347 a bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct a joint special resources study to evaluate the suitability and feasibility of establishing the Rim of the Valley Corridor as a unit of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, and for other purposes; S. 425 a bill to revise the boundary of the wind Cave National Park in the State of South Dakota.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE CALENDAR

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed en bloc to the immediate consideration of the following bills: Calendar No. 12, S. 111; Calendar No. 13, S. 117; Calendar No. 14, S. 144; Calendar No. 15, S. 210; Calendar No. 16, S. 214; Calendar No. 17, S. 233; and Calendar No. 18, S. 254.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. FRIST. I further ask unanimous consent that where applicable the committee amendment be agreed to, the bills as amended be amended, the bills be read a third time and passed, the motions to reconsider be laid on the table, any statements relating to the